

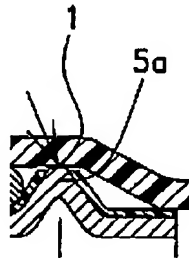
Serial No. 10/552,619

Attorney Docket No. VX052694 PCT

REMARKS

Claims 5-16, 18 and 19 are pending. Claims 1-4 and 17 have been canceled. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The drawings were objected to for failing to illustrate every feature specified in the claims. The office action states that the drawings fail to illustrate the beads contacting the inner surface of a conductive plastic tube. This feature is shown clearly in each of the three figures. For example, as indicated by the arrow in the figure below, Fig. 1 shows the outermost tip of the bead 5a contacting the inner surface of the conductive plastic tube 4. This feature is shown in the replacement drawings and in the original drawings.



Claims 5-19 were objected to for informalities. These matters have been corrected as suggested by the examiner. Therefore, these objections should be withdrawn.

Claims 5-19 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

In claim 5, the phrase "the plastic coated metal pipe and the conductive plastic tube being fused together at a position between the leading edge of the plastic coated metal pipe and the at

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least one bead including the exposed bare metal of the plastic coated metal pipe" was said to lack support in the description. Claim 5 has been amended and now recites that "the plastic coated metal pipe and the conductive plastic tube are fused together." The fusing together of the plastic coated metal pipe and the conductive plastic tube is disclosed in the original specification at page 5, lines 12-15, and at page 6, lines 15-19. The fusing together of these two members is disclosed as an alternative to form a water tight seal between the members. Therefore, claim 5 is fully supported by the originally filed specification, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

In claim 6, the phrase "wherein the plastic coated metal pipe and the conductive plastic tube are fused together by a press fitting of the plastic coated metal pipe into the conductive plastic tube" was said to lack support in the original specification. Claim 6 has been amended to recite simply that the conductive plastic tube is press fitted about the plastic coated metal pipe. This wording is supported at least by the description at page 5, line 9, and at page 6, line 12 and at least in Figs. 1-3. Therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn.

In claim 13, it was said that the phrase "wherein the metal pipe with the nonconductive plastic film is received and press fit with the conductive plastic tube" involves new matter. This phrase has been removed from claim 13. Therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 9 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection should be withdrawn for the following reasons.

The office action states that "it is unclear as to how the two beads recited in claims 9 and 17 relate to the at least one bead recited in claim 5." Claim 9 has been amended to recite that the at least one bead is one of the two beads recited in claim 9. Claim 9 is now considered to be fully definite, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

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Claim 10 also included a reference to two beads and has been clarified. Similarly, claim 11 has been amended for clarification.

Claim 17 has been canceled. Therefore, the rejection of claim 17 will not be discussed.

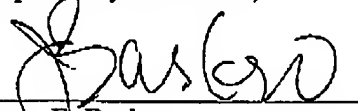
Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested because the amendment is considered to remove rejections under section 112 and to place the application in condition for allowance.

In a telephone interview with examiner Hewitt on 9 May 2008, the examiner was asked to comment on a draft of this amendment. Examiner Hewitt suggested the wording that has been added to claim 6 above. Otherwise, the examiner said that he is not likely to enter this amendment since the claims are broadened by the amendments.

In view of the foregoing, the applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,


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